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INFORMATION FROM  
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REPORT

50X1-HUM

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR

DATE OF  
INFORMATION 1949-50

SUBJECT Economic - Forestation

DATE DIST. 23 May 1950

HOW  
PUBLISHED Daily newspapersWHERE  
PUBLISHED USSR

NO. OF PAGES 3

DATE  
PUBLISHED 13 Nov 1949 - 5 Jan 1950SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

LANGUAGE Russian

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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

FAULTY EQUIPMENT HAMPERS AFFORESTATION WORK[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources]

Kolkhozes in the steppe and forest steppe zones of the European USSR met the plan for fall planting of field shelter belts  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times. According to incomplete figures of the Ministry of Forestry USSR, the 1949 plan was met 169 percent. Planting is continuing in Krasnodar Kray and in a number of areas in the south of the Ukrainian SSR.

During spring and fall, the kolkhozes planted shelter belts with a total area of 135,000 hectares. In addition, they enlarged and restored plantings of former years on an area larger than 46,000 hectares.

In Stavropol' Kray, 8,890 hectares of shelter belts were planted instead of a projected 4,000; in Krasnodar Kray, 11,000 hectares were planted instead of the 4,000 per plan. Tatar ASSR kolkhozes exceeded the plan three times. Many oblasts, including Orel and Stalingrad, also exceeded the plan.

The kolkhozes planted about 1.5 billion tree, shrub and fruit tree seedlings. The new shelter belts now extend along the sides of fields for a cumulative distance of 100,000 kilometers. (1, 2)

A. Soldatov, Minister of Forestry Ukrainian SSR, writes that forest managements of the Ukrainian Republic planted 115,000 hectares of trees during 1949. The year's program for growing planting stock was fulfilled. In the forest managements' nurseries, 1,334,000 seedlings were grown. A total of 24,800 tons of tree and shrub seeds were procured. Forest management workers, kolkhoz workers, Komsomols, and school children collected 24,000 tons of acorns during the fall.

In 1949, more than 12,000 hectares of sandy kolkhoz land and more than 1,800 hectares of ravines were planted. In addition, almost 5,000 hectares of sandy state-owned land were planted.

A total of 48 state tree nurseries covering 3,466 hectares of land were established. These will permit the output of an adequate supply of stock for future plantings.

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Forest managements are equipped with such modern equipment as tractors, trucks, and powerful sprinkling equipment.

Forest managements released about 50,000,000 seedlings, 150 tons of tree and shrub seeds, and more than 6,000 tons of acorns to the kolkhozes. During the spring planting period, 250 forest management specialists directed the work on the kolkhozes. Forest management and forestry workers conducted seminars on tree-planting problems for the benefit of kolkhoz workers.

During spring, the Ukrainian forest managements carried out experimental plantings of oak and coniferous species on 400 hectares according to the Ly-senko method. With winter wheat, oats, barley, and perennial grasses serving as nurse crops, these plantings came up well and the plants developed good root systems. Planting of rapidly growing species such as walnut, poplar, Amur velvet trees, and spindle trees was carried out on 3,000 hectares. The first Chinese guttapercha trees in the Ukraine were planted on the plantations of six timber managements.

The 15 forest conservation stations established in 1949 fulfilled their production plans. In 1950, 16 more stations of this type will be set up.

Leaders in the competition for early fulfillment of the Stalin plan for the transformation of nature were the Cherkassy, Izyum, and Zaporozh'ye forest conservation stations. The survival rate of trees planted in the republic was 90 percent.

In the spring of 1950, tree planting is to be carried out on 130,000 hectares by the forest managements. (3)

According to Pravda Vostoka, a large shelter belt, covering a 3,350-hectare area, is now being developed in the Golodnaya Steppe in Uzbek SSR. Tree planting has already begun in the area around Begovat. (4)

In a letter to the editors of Izvestiya, I. Prikhod'ko, director of the Davydovka Forest Conservation Station, Voronezh Oblast, described the first year of the station's operations in carrying out its part in effecting the Stalin plan for the transformation of nature.

The station met its year plan 120 percent. During the spring, it planted trees on 233 hectares of sandy and poor kolkhoz land, 85 percent of which began to grow. The pond and reservoir construction plan was fulfilled twice over. A large water reservoir on "Krasnyy Oktyabr" Kolkhoz in Levo-Rossoshanskiy Rayon was partly completed. The soil preparation plan for next spring's tree and nursery stock planting was considerably exceeded. Now, the station is successfully completing the first plantings of the state shelter belt running from Voronezh to Rostov-on-Don.

During the year, a machine and tractor repair shop, a garage for trucks and tractors, two storage buildings for spare parts and fuel, seven 2-unit houses, a dormitory, club, and bathhouse were built. The station has been electrified and radars have been installed.

Certain local soil peculiarities affect the operation of the station. The station has to work mostly on sand, but sometimes also on clayey chernozems. Equipment and machines at the station are those usually found on MTS, and the director would like to offer suggestions to the plants which build some of the machines on the basis of his experience with them.

The Nedashkovskiy tree-planting machine, built by the Novo-Tagil' plant, operates well on sand but causes trouble when used on clayey chernozem soils. The design of the machine does not permit control over the planting depth. Trouble occurs in engaging and disengaging the gears. The designers at the plant should consider eliminating these deficiencies.

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The tracks, sprockets, and pins on the STZ-NATI tractor wear out quickly. To lengthen the life of the tracks, one mechanic at the station slackens their tension, but this is merely a half-measure. The plant itself should make necessary changes, such as strengthening the blocks and pins of the tracks. It might be well to equip the STZ-NATI tractor with tracks like those on the S-65 and S-80 tractors.

The premature replacement of tracks on STZ-NATI tractors this one station alone would cost the government tens of thousands of rubles. And how much money could be saved throughout the country if the deficiencies indicated were connected!

The station mechanics highly praise the motor of the tractor put out by the Lipetsk Tractor Plant. But the tracks of this tractor cause the same kind of trouble when it is used on sand. The tracks, friction clutch shaft bearings, and small cylindrical drive gears wear out very quickly. The Lipetsk tractor builders should not fail to give these faults their attention.

The station lacks some equipment. For one thing, it does not have special cultivators for servicing trees planted in rows. The station has so few Universal tractors that it must use plowing tractors for cultivation work. It also lacks plows suitable for drawing by STZ-NATI or Diesel tractors. Sometimes it is necessary to hitch three-bottom plows to these powerful tractors, a most unproductive necessity!

The station builds ponds and water reservoirs on the kolkhozes, but it has not even one bulldozer or scraper for this heavy and laborious work. As far back as last spring, the station was notified by the Ministry of Forestry that a bulldozer was on order with the Osipenko Roadbuilding Machinery Plant, but so far the bulldozer has not been received.

It is hoped that the problems set forth in this letter will interest not only the plants which produce equipment for forest conservation stations, but also the ministries concerned, including the Ministry of Forestry. Correction of the deficiencies pointed out will permit the forest conservation stations to speed the realization of the great Stalin plan for the transformation of nature. (5)

## SOURCES

1. Krasnaya Zvezda, No 288, 7 Dec 49
2. Izvestiya, No 288, 7 Dec 49
3. Izvestiya, No 4, 5 Jan 50
4. Pravda Ukrainy, No 267, 13 Nov 49
5. Izvestiya, No 285, 3 Dec 49

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